



# ARTICLE ALERT

JULY 2013

## U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

The U.S. Mission partners with Indonesia to strengthen the bonds between our people and our governments to promote and protect democracy, security, and sustainable prosperity for our people, the region, and the world.

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## FOURTH OF JULY IS INDEPENDENCE DAY

### Independence Day: Americans Celebrate the Birth of American Nation — July 4, 1776

On July 4th, all across the United States, people are wishing each other a happy Fourth of July. On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence. Though it is the Constitution that provides the legal and governmental framework for the United States, the Declaration, with its eloquent assertion "all Men are created equal," is equally beloved by the American people. On the Declaration's first anniversary, many citizens of Philadelphia had a spontaneous July 4th celebration. But it wasn't until after the War of 1812 that observing Independence Day became commonplace. Source: <http://snip.state.gov/5rk>

### Fourth (of July) and Main Streets

02 April 2013  
By Mark Trainer

The Fourth of July is, first and foremost, a birthday party. Americans mark the day in 1776 when 13 English colonies adopted a Declaration of Independence and the United States of America was born.

Just as birthday parties come in all shapes and sizes — from the small gathering of friends to the raucous birthday blow-out — Fourth of July celebrations across America run from very small to very big. If you happen to be visiting, wherever you are, there is likely to be a parade. If you're in a small town in Iowa, it might feature the town fire truck, neighborhood children riding bicycles decorated with streamers and not much more. If you go to Alameda, California, near San Francisco, you'll join 20,000 spectators along a three-mile route to cheer for marching bands, horses and enormous parade floats.

Shown here is Anchorage, a small city of 300,000 in the south of Alaska, which starts its Fourth of July with a pancake breakfast on the Delaney Park Strip in the middle of town. "There are booths with different activities and food," said Paula Conru, a longtime resident. "Everybody hangs out there, and then you watch the parade. There are fire trucks, old fashioned cars and marching bands."

But since Anchorage is so far north, the fireworks run on a later schedule. "The fireworks go off at midnight," Conru said, "and it's still not really truly dark outside."

Darkness falls earlier 3,300 miles away in New York. There, the city's 8 million residents can watch 22 tons of pyrotechnics launched over a mile-and-a-half



*New York's Empire State Building is backlit by fireworks exploding over the Hudson River during the 2011 Fourth of July fireworks show.*

Source IIP Digital

stretch of the Hudson River in one of the nation's biggest fireworks extravaganzas (page 6).

But don't be entirely distracted by the bright colors and patriotic music. Whether it's in a rural Midwest town square with a pie-baking contest and sparklers, or in Boston Harbor accompanied by an orchestra and cannons, Fourth of July celebrations are joined by a spirit of pride in folks' identity as Americans and a sense that communities — small, medium-sized or big — define them.

Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/5rj>

### Source and Related Links:

- ◆ The Fourth of July 2013  
Facts for features from Census.gov.  
Link: <http://snip.state.gov/5q4>
- ◆ Declaration of Independence  
The original paper copy of the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives Building in the District of Columbia.  
Link: <http://snip.state.gov/5rl>
- ◆ U.S. Flag History and Facts  
Link: <http://snip.state.gov/5rm>
- ◆ American Recipes to Celebrate the Fourth of July.  
Link: <http://snip.state.gov/5rn>

## DEMOCRACY & IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

1. CAN GOVERNMENT PLAY MONEYBALL?/ By John Bridgeland and Peter Orszag. The Atlantic, July/August 2013.

Based on our rough calculations, less than \$1 out of every \$100 of government spending is backed by even the most basic evidence that the money is being spent wisely. As former officials in the administrations of Barack Obama (Peter Orszag) and George W. Bush (John Bridgeland), we were flabbergasted by how blindly the federal government spends. In other types of American enterprise, spending decisions are usually quite sophisticated, and are rapidly becoming more so: baseball's transformation into "moneyball" is one example. But the federal government—where spending decisions are largely based on good intentions, inertia, hunches, partisan politics, and personal relationships—has missed this wave. Available online at <http://snip.state.gov/5a>

2. BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM/ Whitehouse.gov, July 2013.

America's immigration system is broken. Too many employers game the system by hiring undocumented workers and there are 11 million people living in the shadows. Neither is good for the economy or the country. The President's plan builds a smart, effective immigration system that continues efforts to secure our borders and cracks down on employers who hire undocumented immigrants. It's a plan that requires anyone who's undocumented to get right with the law by paying their taxes and a penalty, learning English, and undergoing background checks before they can be eligible to earn citizenship. It requires every business and every worker to play by the same set of rules. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/5u2>

3. A SMARTER, MORE INNOVATIVE GOVERNMENT FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE/ Posted by Steve VanRoekel and Todd Park. Whitehouse.gov, July 2013

President Barack Obama, with Vice President Joe Biden, delivers a statement on management agenda for his second term, in the State Dining Room of the White House, July 8, 2013. President Obama highlighted innovations taking place in our government that are already making a difference:

- ◆ Digitizing disaster recovery: FEMA use of data analytics and internet/mobile apps to deliver better results
- ◆ Ushering out old technologies, bringing in new
- ◆ Opening government data to fuel innovation and problem-solving

Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/5u1>

## GLOBAL ISSUES & ENVIRONMENT

4. CLIMATE CHANGE AND FINANCIAL INSTABILITY SEEN AS TOP GLOBAL THREATS/ Pew Research Survey, June 2013.

Publics around the world are concerned about the effect of global climate change and international financial instability, with majorities in many of the nations surveyed saying these are major threats to their countries. But Islamic extremism is also a serious concern, particularly in the United States, Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. In contrast, relatively few consider American or Chinese power and influence a major threat to their countries. Available online at <http://snip.state.gov/5s7>

5. THE COMING ARCTIC BOOM: AS THE ICE MELTS, THE REGION HEATS UP/ By Scott G. Borgerson. Foreign Affair, July/August 2013.

The ice was never supposed to melt this quickly. Although climate scientists have known for some time that global warming was shrinking the percentage of the Arctic Ocean that was frozen over, few predicted so fast a thaw. In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimated that Arctic summers would become ice free beginning in 2070.

Yet more recent satellite observations have moved that date to somewhere around 2035, and even more sophisticated simulations in 2012 moved the date up to 2020. Sure enough, by the end of last summer, the portion of the Arctic Ocean covered by ice had been reduced to its smallest size since record keeping began in 1979, shrinking by 350,000 square miles (an area equal to the size of Venezuela) since the previous summer. All told, in just the past three decades, Arctic sea ice has lost half its area and three quarters of its volume. Currently available at <http://snip.state.gov/5s9>

6. WE DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FUELS AND GREEN ENERGY/ By Megan Gambino. Smithsonian Magazine, May 2013.

Michael Levi will tell you that there are two energy revolutions unfolding in the United States, one focused on fossil fuels and the other on alternative energy. "We've seen oil production grow last year by the largest one-year increment since the beginning of the oil industry. Natural gas production hit a record high," he says. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/5u0>

### IRC HIGHLIGHTS

#### Obama's Ramadan Message, July 8

*With the start of the sacred month of Ramadan, Michelle and I extend our best wishes to Muslim communities here in the United States and around the world.*

Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/5wa>

### MUSLIM IN AMERICA INFORMATION PACKAGE



Muslims in America Info Pack is compilation of selected information that covered U.S. Muslims - Views on Religion and Society in a Global Context and Re-

sources on Muslims in America. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/5ut>

More resources <http://snip.state.gov/5wb>

## ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT

7. CAN SILICON VALLEY SAVE THE WORLD?/ By Charles Kenny, Justin Sandefur. Foreign Policy, July/August 2013.

Not content with dominating IPOs on Wall Street, Silicon Valley entrepreneurs are taking their can-do, failure-conquering, technology-enabled tactics to the challenge of global poverty. And why not? If we can look up free Khan Academy math lectures using the cheap, kid-friendly computers handed out by the folks at One Laptop per Child, who needs to worry about the complexities of education reform? With a lamp lit up by an electricity-generating soccer ball in every hut, who needs coal-fired power stations and transmission lines? And if even people in refugee camps can make

money transcribing outsourced first-world dental records, who needs manufacturing or the roads and port systems required to export physical goods? No wonder the trendiest subject these days for TED talks is cracking the code on digital-era do-gooding, with 100 recent talks and counting just on the subjects of Africa and development. Available at <http://snip.state.gov/5sc>

8. THE SECOND GREAT DEPRESSION: WHY THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IS WORSE THAN YOU THINK/ By J. Bradford DeLong. Foreign Affairs, July/August 2013.

The global economic downturn is hardly over, and without a more dramatic set of actions, the

United States is likely to suffer another major crisis in the years ahead. A new book by Alan Blinder may be the best general volume on the recession to date, but it paints an overly optimistic portrait of the current situation. For full text please contact the IRC.

**Find more articles and e-books on U.S. Foreign Policies related issues from eLibraryUSA Database (<http://elibraryusa.state.gov>)**

**Contact the IRC at email at [ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov) for more details.**

## U.S. EDUCATION, SOCIETY & VALUES

9. ART TEACHING FOR A NEW AGE/ By Sean T. Buffington. The Chronicle of Higher Education, July 2013.

In arts education, something profound is happening that will force us to rethink what and how we teach. Art making has changed radically in recent years. Artists have become increasingly interested in crossing disciplinary boundaries—choreographers use video, sculpture, and text; photographers create "paintings" with repurposed textiles. New technologies enable new kinds of work, like interactive performances with both live and Web-based components. International collaboration has become de rigueur. Art and design pervade the culture—witness popular television programs like Top Design, Ink Master, and—the granddaddy of them all—Project Runway. And policy makers and businesspeople have embraced at least the idea of the so-called creative economy, with cities rushing to establish arts districts, and business schools collaborating with design schools. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/5tz>

10. CAN LIBRARIES SURVIVE THE E-BOOK REVOLUTION?/ Dylan Scott. Governing.com, July 2013.

Facing higher prices and limited access to e-books from the major publishers, Jamie LaRue, the man charged with running Douglas County, Colo.'s library system, has inspired a national movement to promote smaller, digitally based presses and self-published authors. Now that Douglas County has the content management system for its direct-purchasing

project, LaRue thinks it would be easy to turn that into a self-publishing portal. The library would be the center of a local authors' society, connecting self-starters to copy editors, cover artists and e-book distributors, and transforming thousands of Word documents sitting idly on neighborhood desktops into polished, professional products. LaRue hasn't actually done this yet, but the idea is already attracting adherents. Officials at the Harris County Public Library say they're interested in eventually starting a similar project. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/5ty>

11. HOW JUNK FOOD CAN END OBESITY/ By David H. Freedman. The Atlantic, July/August 2013

Late last year, in a small health-food eatery called Cafe Sprouts in Oberlin, Ohio, I had what may well have been the most wholesome beverage of my life. The friendly server patiently guided me to an apple-blueberry-kale-carrot smoothie-juice combination, which she spent the next several minutes preparing, mostly by shepherding farm-fresh produce into machinery. The result was tasty, but at 300 calories (by my rough calculation) in a 16-ounce cup, it was more than my diet could regularly absorb without consequences, nor was I about to make a habit of \$9 shakes, healthy or not. Currently available at <http://snip.state.gov/5sb>

12. VOLUNTEERS: ANSWERING THE CALL/IIP Digital, June 2013

While researching this month's cover feature,

MacKenzie Babb, ejournal USA staff editor, became absorbed by an important American value: volunteerism. She edited firsthand accounts by people who have volunteered around the world, and She couldn't help feeling proud. Volunteerism is woven into the fabric of our society. For generations, Americans have committed themselves to helping those in need at home and abroad. Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/5rr>

13. YOUNGER AMERICANS' LIBRARY HABITS AND EXPECTATIONS/ By Kathryn Zickuhr, Lee Rainie and Kristen Purcell. Pew Research Service, June 2013.

Younger Americans—those ages 16-29—exhibit a fascinating mix of habits and preferences when it comes to reading, libraries, and technology. Almost all Americans under age 30 are online, and they are more likely than older patrons to use libraries' computer and internet connections; however, they are also still closely bound to print. Similarly, younger Americans' library usage reflect a blend of traditional and technological services. Americans under age 30 are just as likely as older adults to visit the library, and once there they borrow print books and browse the shelves at similar rates. Large majorities of those under age 30 say it is "very important" for libraries to have librarians as well as books for borrowing, and relatively few think that libraries should automate most library services, move most services online, or move print books out of public areas. Currently available at <http://snip.state.gov/5s8>



## INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER'S PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

### ABOUT US

The Information Resource Center (IRC) of the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility. Our goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about the United States. Our collections include the updated reference titles, a periodical section, DVDs movie and music, audio books, games and access to extensive online database which cover topics ranged from American policy, government, politics, economics, history, English language, education, culture, society as well as global topic of interests.

Our professionally-trained reference specialists use a wide array of resources to retrieve the information quickly, conveniently. With one day appointment in-advanced, walk-in visitors are welcomed to visit the IRC facility, to use its resources, get research assistances and attend various programs on English language, EducationUSA, information literacy classes and movies/ gaming activities at no cost. We open on weekdays (except for Indonesian and American Holidays) from 8.00 AM to 04.00 PM.

Check our collections via our online catalog at: <http://snip.state.gov/58x>



IRC's June 2013 Programs: 1) Movie Showing on Diversity in the U.S. 2) Play Game and Discussion program at AC UIN Jakarta. Other than that IRC also had five more programs on gaming at UI, Depok; UPI, Bandung; UNPAD, Bandung; @America, Pacific Place Jakarta; and connected with AC UGM Yogya, AC USU Medan, and AC UNTAN Pontianak via DVC.

To join our programs and make appointment for the visit as well as to request for program opportunities, please contact us at:

**The U.S. Embassy Annex**  
**Gedung Sarana Jaya, 8th Floor**  
**Jl. Budi Kemuliaan I /No. 1**  
**Jakarta 10110**  
**Tel.: 021-3508467**  
**Fax.: 021-350-8466**  
**Email: [ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov)**

You can also do research and join U.S. Embassy programs at IRC Surabaya and American Corners in Indonesia.

**IRC Surabaya**  
Public Affairs Section  
United States Consulate General in Surabaya  
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Tel.: 031 297 5300.  
Email: [passurabaya@state.gov](mailto:passurabaya@state.gov)

**American Corners in Indonesia**  
American Corners are partnerships between the U.S. Embassy and major universities in Indonesia. For more details on services and current programs at each Corner, please explore at <http://snip.state.gov/5wc>

## ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM

Please write your complete name and address IN CAPITAL LETTERS, check (✓) the articles and send your request for July 2013 Article Alert items to the Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy, before September 2013 via fax (021) 350-8466 or email ([ircjakarta@state.gov](mailto:ircjakarta@state.gov))

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Request for:

- ☐ 1. CAN GOVERNMENT PLAY MONEYBALL?
- ☐ 2. BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM
- ☐ 3. A SMARTER, MORE INNOVATIVE GOVERNMENT FOR
- ☐ 4. CLIMATE CHANGE AND FINANCIAL INSTABILITY SEEN AS TOP
- ☐ 5. THE COMING ARCTIC BOOM
- ☐ 6. WE DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FUELS AND GREEN
- ☐ 7. CAN SILICON VALLEY SAVE THE WORLD?
- ☐ 8. THE SECOND GREAT DEPRESSION
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- ☐ 11. HOW JUNK FOOD CAN END OBESITY
- ☐ 12. VOLUNTEERS: ANSWERING THE CALL
- ☐ 13. YOUNGER AMERICANS' LIBRARY HABITS AND EXPECTATIONS

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